

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. Claims 2, 4 and 6 have been amended hereby to correct minor matters of form unrelated to the patentability of the subject matter recited in those claims. Further, new claims 7 and 8 have been added to recite subject matter to which Applicant is entitled. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application and are believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons stated below.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, for the reasons stated below, it is believed that all claims pending in this application are allowable over the prior art of record.

In the Office Action claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It is believed that the amendments to claims 4 and 6 set forth herein address the Examiner's concerns and, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this ground of rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Further in the Office Action, claims 1, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Valenti in view of Chaffee. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicant notes that the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness lies with the Patent Office. To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be (1) some suggestion or motivation (either in the references or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art) to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings to achieve the claimed invention, and (2) the prior art must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

MPEP §2143. It is respectfully submitted that the Patent Office has not established a prima facie case of obviousness against any of the claims in this application.

In accordance with the present invention and as recited, for example, in claim 1, a battery case that is built into the inflatable body receives batteries to supply the **electric pump** with power. In Valenti, however, the battery case 22 receives batteries only to supply **a battery indicator 26 and an alarm 30** with power. There is not the slightest suggestion in Valenti that the batteries could be used to supply power to a pump used to inflate the product.

In Chaffee, the batteries are mounted in the pump unit itself, which is no different from the admitted prior art illustrated in Figure 1 of the present application. Thus, Chaffee also fails to disclose or even to remotely suggest a battery case built in an inflatable body for receiving batteries to supply an electric pump with power.

The same arguments apply equally to claim 4, which recites that the electric pump is supplied with power by the batteries loaded in the battery case.

Claim 6 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Valenti in view of Chaffee and further in view of Owen et al. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that Owen et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Valenti and Chaffee described above. Accordingly, claim 6 should be allowable over the cited prior art for at least the reasons indicated above with respect to claim 4.

In addition to the foregoing, Applicant also notes that the presently claimed invention has enjoyed substantial commercial success and that such objective evidence must be considered in determining the issue of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103. *Stratoflex, Inc. v. Aeroquip Corp.*, 218 USPQ 871, 879 (Fed. Cir. 1983). During the period of October 2000 to June 2001,

approximately 600,000 airbed units configured in accordance with the present invention were sold out at U.S. retailers including Sears, Sam's and Target. Furthermore, approximately 200,000 airbed units configured in accordance with the present invention were sold out in Great Britain, Germany, France, Canada and Japan. It is quite clear from the foregoing sales data that the features of the present invention have significant advantages over conventional inflatable products.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied §103 grounds of rejection are improper and should be withdrawn.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 7 and 8 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth herein.

In view of the above, all of the claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHENG CHUNG WANG

By: 

Michael D. Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

SHAW PITTMAN
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia 22102-4859
(703) 770-7606

MDB/LDE/lrhj

Date: July 9, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

2. (Amended) An inflatable product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the socket has at least one first electrode [first electrodes] inside to electrically connect the batteries, the electric pump has at least one second electrode [second electrodes], the electric pump is actuated to pump the inflatable body when the electric pump is rotated to a first position so that the at least one second electrode [second electrodes] contacts the at least one first electrode [first electrodes], and the electric pump is stopped when the electric pump is rotated to a second position so that the at least one first electrode and the at least one second electrode [first and second electrodes] separate.

4. (Amended) A method of inflating an inflatable product including the steps of:

(a) [preparing] providing an electric pump and [an inflatable product having] a built-in battery case in the inflatable product;

(b) loading batteries into the battery case; and

(c) connecting the electric pump to the socket in a first direction to pump the inflatable product, wherein the batteries supply the electric pump with power.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, further including the step of:

(d) separating the electric pump from the socket;

(e) [reversely] connecting the electric pump to the socket in a second direction opposite to the first direction to pump air inside the inflatable product out.

Serial No. 09/542,477
Art Unit: 3746

Attorney Docket No. TTX0164-US

Document #: 1139171 v.1

a